

# State of Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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# School District Requirements

For Serving Homeless Children  
and Youth as outlined in  
No Child Left Behind



# Who is Considered Homeless?

A homeless individual is one who:

- A. lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- B. includes—
  - i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;



# Who is Considered Homeless?

- ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings



# Identification

## Enrollment Form Questions:

1. Are you sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason? Explain if it is a similar reason.
2. Are you currently residing in a hotel, motel, car, or at a campsite because your home has been damaged or because of economic reasons?
3. Are you currently residing in a shelter?
4. Are you currently living in a temporary housing arrangement due to economic hardship?



# Enrollment

- The McKinney-Vento Act states that homeless children must be enrolled immediately in public school, even when:
  - School or immunization records are unavailable at the time of enrollment.
  - Proof of residency is not available
- Students may stay in their school of origin, if feasible.



# Enrollment

- Contact information for a family member/guardian
- This is the only information that can be required/requested.
- Homeless Students automatically qualify for free and reduced lunch. They do not need to provide a Social Security Number to qualify.



# District Homeless Coordinator

- Must be a board appointed Homeless Coordinator.
- Must work to ensure homeless children and youth have the same free public education as other children and youth.





# Homeless Coordinator Responsibilities

- Assist with immediate enrollment
- Make school placement decisions
- Handle enrollment disputes
- Prohibit the segregation of homeless children and youth



# Homeless Coordinator Responsibilities

- Provide/arrange transportation & inform of transportation services.
- Inform about educational opportunities available
- Disseminate public notice of rights



# School Assignment

- Must be immediately enrolled in the school of their best interest
- Continuity of the student's education
- Remain in the school of origin



# School Assignment

- In determining the best interests of the child or youth, the school district shall comply, to the extent feasible, with the request made by a parent or guardian regarding school selection.
- If the school district sends a child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, the school district shall provide a written explanation including the right to appeal the decision, to the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth.



# School Assignment

School  
of  
Best Interest

School District  
Last Attended or  
School District  
Attended When  
Permanently Housed  
(School of Origin)

School District  
Where They're  
Sleeping  
(School of  
Residence)



# Transporting

- If a student becomes homeless during the school year and temporarily resides in a different attendance area, the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and the district Homeless Coordinator should decide whether or not it is in the student's best interest to remain at the school of origin.
- The homeless child may remain in the school of origin for the remainder of the academic year.



# Transporting

- Both districts must equally split the cost of transporting a homeless student to the school of origin, or if the school of origin is not determined to be in the best interest of the child, to the school of best interest.
- It is, however, the resident district's responsibility to fill out and submit the homeless transportation reimbursement form to our department for both districts involved.



# Transporting

- This applies to all cases of homeless transportation reimbursement except when the resident district has a homeless grant.
- Homeless transportation reimbursement requests must be from the current fiscal year and must be submitted after the actual transportation has occurred.





# Use Of Title I Funds

- A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is eligible for Title I services.
- Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) targets those students most at risk of failing in school. Among students at risk of school failure are children and youth experiencing homelessness.



# Use Of Title I Funds

- Examples of services may include: extended days/learning opportunities, homework clubs, Saturday schools, early morning tutoring, summer intercessions, summer academic camps;
- Coordination of services with shelters or other homeless service providers as appropriate;
- Title I funds can not be used to transport homeless children and youth while they are homeless.



# Use Of Title I Funds

- Teacher training on strategies for assisting homeless, sensitivity to issues, confidentiality
- Supplies for class and homework; paper, pencils, notebooks, book bags, locks for lockers, uniforms, basic hygiene supplies, laminated copies of school records for portability;
- Home/school homeless student coordinator services;
- Counseling/case managed services to help students deal with chronic stress of homelessness when all other available resources are exhausted.



# Homeless Census

- Every year at the end of August, beginning of September districts are asked to complete a homeless census form.
- This form is available on our website.



# Hurricane Information

- Send me updates every week.
- I will soon be collecting information on students and staff who have relocated to public schools in Missouri from Louisiana and Mississippi.



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